

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1401
By Ferguson

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Erin Johnson upon being named Highland Park Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pay tribute to those outstanding professionals who have dedicated their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Erin Johnson is most assuredly one such superlative professional, and she has recently been named 2005-2006 Teacher of the Year at Highland Park Elementary School in Lenoir City; and

WHEREAS, born on July 2, 1973, to Judy Dunseth Robbins and the late Richard Robbins of Victoria, Texas, Erin Johnson earned an Associate of Science degree in 1993 from Victoria College and a Bachelor of Science degree in Child and Family Studies from the University of Maryland; she gained her Master of Education degree in 2001 and her Education Specialist degree in 2002, both from Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Erin Johnson has served as a Highland Park Elementary School teacher for six years; she taught fifth grade for six months, and for the remaining five-and-a-half years has excelled in her duties as a Kindergarten teacher; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Johnson has demonstrated her commitment to the value of professional development by attending the Tennessee Kindergarten Conference in 2005 and 2006, seeking School Marketing training, and pursuing Differentiated Learning training; she has also served as a Presenter at both the Blue Ribbon Conference for the SMART program and the Coordinated School Health Conference at East Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, outside of the classroom, Ms. Johnson is a distinguished member of the Healthy Schools Team, the School Improvement Plan Committee, the Family Engagement Plan, and TEA/NEA; she also served as Technology Coordinator from 2000 to 2004; and

WHEREAS, a public-spirited citizen of the highest order, Erin Johnson sets an example for her students as a proud and active community member and participant in numerous fine organizations, including the Republican Women's Club, Loudon Women's Club, Rebekah's Circle and United Methodist Women, Sunday School, which she serves as the Coordinator for the K-5 program, Relay for Life, Read Across America, the Child Advocacy Center, Three for Me, and the Loudon Rotary Club; and

WHEREAS, Erin Johnson is no stranger to accolades and awards. She has been honored as a Certified SMART trainer, was the second place Fundraising Award winner for the Walk-a-Thon, and stood as the first place award winner for the collection of soup labels and box tops for Kindergarten. She has also received Certificates of Appreciation honoring her presentation of the school's SMART Program and for her participation in the Prioritizing and Mapping Curriculum Project, and she earned a Principal Endorsement for her teaching license; and

WHEREAS, though her interests are many and diverse, Erin Johnson ultimately chose the challenges of a career in teaching so that she might become a positive and beneficial influence in the lives of young people; she views teaching as a calling, not a job, and her greatest reward in educating young minds is witnessing a student master a new concept or skill and understanding that this knowledge is part of a continual process of learning which will empower and enrich his or her life; and

WHEREAS, her professional accomplishments notwithstanding, Erin Johnson is most grateful for the love and continued support of her husband, Tennessee House Representative Russell Johnson; her brother, Stephen Robbins, a teacher in Corpus Christi, Texas; her sister, Kim Wheeler, a teacher in League City, Texas; her best friend and fellow teacher at Highland Park Elementary, Kimi Shubert; Principal David Meers; and Assistant Principal Gail Sharp; and

WHEREAS, in her spare time, Erin Johnson relaxes by spending time with her family, her friends, her cat, Dimple, and her two dogs, Ralph and Tucson; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Johnson is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who has worked assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; she truly serves as an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, Erin Johnson truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Erin Johnson upon being named 2005-2006 Teacher of the Year at Highland Park Elementary School, recognize her generous dedication to her students and her community, and offer our heartfelt wishes for every continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.